

TOPIC Salzwedel Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 16 May to August 1952

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 24 October 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

REFERENCE COPY

DO NOT CIRCULATE

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1. In 1945, Salzwedel airfield had been plowed and divided among new farmers. In May 1952, about 20 of the former airfield buildings still existed including 8 billeting buildings and 12 smaller buildings all of which were occupied by farmers. The settlement at the field was designated "Settlement of Peace".

two Soviet generals and VP officers appeared in the Settlement of Peace on 13 May 1952 and ordered the farmers to leave the settlement by 17 May. Representatives of the Settlement of Peace went to Berlin secretly because they were not allowed to leave Salzwedel. As the Settlement of Peace was not yet vacated on 17 May, seven trucks with VP men arrived in order to force the farmers to leave the settlement. The farmers, however, received the policemen with sticks and stones and demanded to see the film "The Condemned Village". This film which was shown in West Germany shows the expulsion of farmers. An SED functionary who was going to persuade the farmers to move into hotels was thrown out of the window. Several persons were then arrested. On 17 May, the home for aged people and the forest office were no longer located at the field.

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2. On 18 May, SED functionaries tried to persuade the inhabitants at the former airfield to evacuate the buildings within 8 days. Soviet officers were also observed. salvaging activity at the former airfield was discontinued. In July, it was rumored that the airfield was to be reconstructed.

3. the Stendal labor office, workers were recruited for construction work at Salzwedel airfield to begin after 1 August. \*

4. In June, five buildings had to be vacated by German civilians. Additional buildings were confiscated in August.

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Comment.

In 1950, the airfield was released for agricultural purposes, and the buildings were improved for civilians. The present report indicates that the field is apparently to be improved.